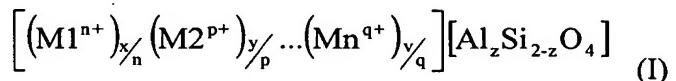


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A zeolite material comprising releasably adsorbed nitric oxide for use in surgery and/or therapy.

2. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite has the following general formula (I):



wherein M1 and M2 ... Mn are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as $N(R_1)_a(R_2)_b^+$ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x ranges from zero to nz,

y ranges from zero to pz, and

v ranges from zero to qz;

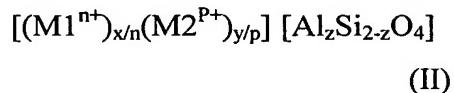
subject to the condition that $x/n + y/p + \dots + v/q = z$; wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework;

n+, p+ and q+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations, and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

3. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 2, wherein M1 and/or M2 are NH₄⁺.

4. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1 having the following general formula (II):



wherein M1 and M2 are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as $N(R_1)_a(R_2)_b^+$ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x may range from zero to nz, and

y may range from zero to pz, subject to the condition that $x/n + y/p = z$;

wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework; n+ and p+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

5. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of Ni-LTA(A), Cu-LTA(A), Co-LTA(A), Mn-LTA(A), Fe-LTA, Na-LTA(A) and Cu-PHI.

6. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 1, in the form of a powder or a monolith.

7. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 6, wherein said monolith is formed by compression of a zeolite powder or by mixing a powdered zeolite with a binder.

8. (Original) A zeolite material for use according to claim 7, wherein the binder is selected from ceramic binders, polymeric binders and other polymers.

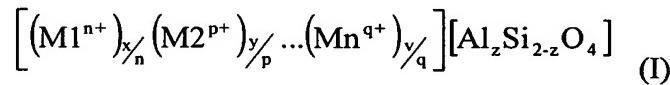
9. (Original) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a zeolite material comprising releasably adsorbed nitric oxide according to claim 1 together with a pharmaceutical carrier.

10 (Original) A medical article comprising a zeolite material, wherein the zeolite material is provided as a zeolite material comprising releasably adsorbed nitric oxide in accordance with claim 1.

11. (Original) A medical article according to claim 10, wherein said medical article is chosen from a stent, catheter, wound dressing, bandage, self-adhesive plaster and patch.

12. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product comprising a zeolite which comprises releasably adsorbed nitric oxide.

13. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claim 12, wherein the zeolite has the following general formula (I):



wherein M1 and M2 ... Mn are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as $N(R_1)_a(R_2)_b^+$ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x ranges from zero to nz,

y ranges from zero to pz, and

v ranges from zero to qz;

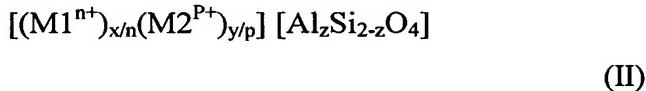
subject to the condition that $x/n + y/p + \dots + v/q = z$; wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework;

n+, p+ and q+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations, and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

14. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claim 13, wherein M1 and/or M2 are NH_4^+ .

15. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claim 12, having the following general formula (II):



wherein M1 and M2 are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as $\text{N}(\text{R}_1)_a(\text{R}_2)_b^+$ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x may range from zero to nz, and

y may range from zero to pz, subject to the condition that $x/n + y/p = z$;

wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework;

n+ and p+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

16. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claims 12, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of Ni-LTA(A), Cu-LTA(A), Co-LTA(A), Mn-LTA(A), Fe-LTA, Na-LTA(A) and Cu-PHI.

17. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claim 12 in the form of a powder or a monolith.

18. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claim 17, wherein said monolith is formed by compression of a zeolite powder or by mixing a powdered zeolite with a binder.

19. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claim 18, wherein the binder is selected from ceramic binders, polymeric binders and other polymers.

20. (Original) A cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product according to claim 12, which is selected from a cosmetic preparation, deodorant, skin preparation, anti-aging skin preparation, hair preparation and depilatory preparation.

21. (Original) A method of preparing a medical article, cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product comprising the steps of:

- i) providing a medical article, cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product which comprises a zeolite material without nitric oxide adsorbed therein, and
- ii) contacting said zeolite material of said medical article, cosmetic and/or personal hygiene product with nitric oxide gas.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the zeolite material is fully or partially dehydrated to remove water from the zeolite channels prior to contacting the zeolite material with nitric oxide gas.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the zeolite material is contacted with nitric oxide gas at a temperature of from -100°C to 50°C.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the nitric oxide is provided as substantially pure nitric oxide or as a mixture of nitric oxide and a carrier gas.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 24 wherein the carrier gas is an inert gas chosen from helium, argon or other inert gas including mixtures thereof.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 21 wherein the zeolite is contacted with nitric oxide gas at a pressure of from atmosphere pressure up to a pressure of 10 bar.

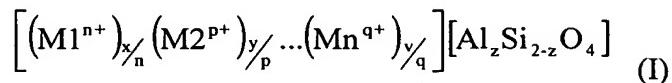
27. (Original) A method of releasing nitric oxide comprising the steps of
(i) providing a zeolite material comprising releasably adsorbed nitric oxide;
(ii) contacting said zeolite material with a medium into which said nitric oxide is to be released, wherein the release is performed inside an animal body, topically to an animal body or in non-body applications.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 27, wherein the release in non-body applications includes release into cell cultures.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 27, wherein the release is performed at room or body temperature.

30. (Original) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of an individual in need thereof comprising providing a zeolite comprising releasably adsorbed nitric oxide and contacting said zeolite with said individual.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the zeolite has the following general formula (I):



wherein M1 and M2 ... Mn are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as $N(R_1)_a(R_2)_b^+$ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x ranges from zero to nz,

y ranges from zero to pz, and

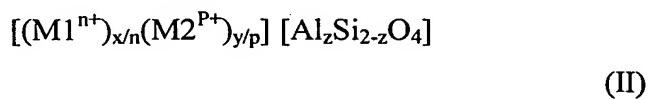
v ranges from zero to qz;

subject to the condition that $x/n + y/p + \dots + v/q = z$; wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework; n+, p+ and q+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations, and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein M1 and/or M2 are NH₄⁺.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the zeolite has the following general formula (II):



wherein M₁ and M₂ are extra framework metal cations of elements selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Cu, Ru, Rh, Co, Ni, Zn and Ag, or are chosen from small organic cations such as N(R₁)_a(R₂)_b⁺ wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, or -CH₂CH₂CH₃, and a and b are independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 such that a + b = 4;

x may range from zero to n_z, and

y may range from zero to p_z, subject to the condition that x/n + y/p = z;

wherein

z is the number of silicon atoms replaced by aluminium atoms in the zeolite framework; n+ and p+ are the charges of the extra framework metal cations and may individually take the values of +1, +2 or +3.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the zeolite is selected from the group consisting of Ni-LTA(A), Cu-LTA(A), Co-LTA(A), Mn-LTA(A), Fe-LTA, Na-LTA(A) and Cu-PHI.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the zeolite is in the form of a powder or a monolith.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein said monolith is formed by compression of a zeolite powder or by mixing a powdered zeolite with a binder.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 36, wherein the binder is selected from ceramic binders, polymeric binders and other polymers.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein the diseases or medical conditions which may be treated include infections of the skin, including dermatophyte fungi, leishmaniasis, molluscum and papilloma virus, and mycobacterium infections; therapeutic

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applications in anti-neoplastic activities; immune response modification; treatment of Raynaud's disease; wound healing; skin pigment modification; treatment of restenosis; treatment of psoriasis, eczema, and skin cancer (melanoma); therapies for bacterial problems, the reduction of severe foot or body odour, and treatment of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* infections.